

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: November 13, 2012
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Storm Sandy Update* – Storm Sandy caused one fatality and widespread power outages in Mansfield. I believe that our emergency management team was well-prepared and responded admirably and effectively to the events of the storm. The town's response represented a true team effort involving staff from across the organization, the Mansfield Public Schools and Regional School District 19. In particular, I would like to commend Fran Raiola, Acting Deputy Chief/Director of Emergency Management, for his leadership, and Jennifer Thompson, Administrative Assistant, for her tireless work in the Emergency Operations Center. I would also like to thank and acknowledge Dennis Pierce and UConn Dining Services as well as Janice Mills, Linda Clark, Jodi Abele and Lisa Duplissie from the Mansfield Public Schools Food Service Department for providing food to our respite area and shelter.
- *Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting* – This council committee comprised of Mayor Paterson, Deputy Mayor Moran and Councilor Chris Paulhus met on November 5, 2012. At its next meeting the *ad hoc* committee will review the Town's procurement process, and wage verification and construction inspection process for large construction projects.
- *Connecticut's Innovation Ecosystem* – On October 25, Governor Malloy launched the [Connecticut's Innovation Ecosystem](#), a public –private partnership that will spur the development of promising new products and technologies, and will accelerate the creation and growth of innovative companies and industries in Connecticut.
- *FY 2013/14 Budget Workshop* – The school districts are now developing their proposed budgets for FY 2013/14 and town staff will soon begin to do the same. I would like to hold a workshop with the Council in December or January to discuss the development of the budget and related issues, and to receive any preliminary policy guidance from you as staff prepares the proposed spending plan. Sarah Delia from my office will poll the Council regarding potential dates for this workshop.

Departmental Reports

- *Mansfield Public Schools*
 - Liberty Bank Foundation of Academic Grants – Mansfield Middle School was one of thirteen schools selected to receive a \$2,000 grant from this fund designed to support remediation programs at K-12 schools in central, eastern and shoreline Connecticut. Congratulations to the MMS for its successful application and thank you to Liberty Bank for its generosity.
- *Resident Trooper's Office*
 - Firearms Training – As an FYI to the community, the University of Connecticut Police Department plans to conduct firearms training on December 5, 6 and 7 at the university's outdoor range located off Gurleyville Road.
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - CCM Convention & Exposition – On October 23, 2012 several members of the town staff, Mayor Paterson and Deputy Mayor Moran attended the CCM convention downtown Hartford. Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and I participated in a panel discussion concerning employee wellness programs, which was well received.

- “Managing the New England Town in the 21st Century” – On November 15, 2012, Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola will participate in this panel workshop sponsored by the UConn chapter of Graduate Association of Public Policy Students (GAPPS). The event will focus on the unique challenges that local government managers face and I thank Ms. Capriola for her participation in the forum as an active alumni of the UConn MPA program.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project* – I recently met with Sam Shifrin and his potential investors to discuss the hydro project. After reviewing different ownership and financing scenarios, Sam and his team have come back to the idea of a power purchase agreement with the Town, in which the Town would purchase the power produced by the facility for a set period of time. I am now waiting on a more specific proposal from Sam and his team, and will keep the Council informed of any developments on this initiative.
- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – Mansfield residents enjoying the new and returning businesses that have opened in Phase 1A of Storrs Center, and construction of Phase 1B is well underway. While the construction of Phase 1B continues, the construction of Phase 1A is wrapping up: façades are being painted, businesses are opening up, and the streetscape is filling out. To date, eleven businesses have opened their doors in 1 Dog Lane (Froyoworld, Subway, Insomnia Cookies), 9 Dog Lane (Body Language, Travel Planners, Skora’s Barber Styling Shop, Bank of America, Sweet Emotions, Select Physical Therapy, and Husky Pizza), and 11 Dog Lane (Storrs Automotive). In the coming months, six more businesses will open: Moe’s Southwest Grill, 7-Eleven, Dog Lane Café, and Mooyah Burgers & Fries (1 Dog Lane) and Geno’s Grille (9 Dog Lane). Phase 1B consists of one building, 1 Royce Circle, which is adjacent to the Storrs Center parking garage. This building is expected to open in August 2013 with 40,000 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 190 rental apartments from The Oaks on the Square on the upper floors. One Royce Circle will help to define the future Town Square. In addition to forming the east end of the square by its location, the size and scale of the building will help create a distinct sense of place. A third, future phase (1C) will form the southerly end once it is completed in 2014. Each of the buildings framing the Town Square will have commercial space on the first floors. The restaurants and shops, along with wide sidewalks and outdoor seating, will create a lively environment in the Town Square area, where residents and visitors can meet and mingle, partake in community events and enjoy living in a diverse university community. The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Mansfield Advocates for Children – Executive Council Regular Meeting, November 14, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, November 14, 2012, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, November 14, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, November 14, 2012, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, November 15, 2012, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Partnership Finance and Administration Committee, November 16, 2012, 3:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, November 19, 2012, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, November 19, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, November 21, 2012, 2:00 PM, Conference room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Town Council, Monday, November 26, 2012, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*